

21<sup>st</sup> February 2009

## **Robin Powell**

A lovely sunny day for a change, but we were accepting the challenges that Robin place before us in the temporary venue of Stoke St. Mary Hall (Ruishton had the annual pantomime on). We began with *Fantasia no 3* by **Gibbons** a lovely sounding piece in 6 parts, which, after working on the style of each section, sounded quite creditable. We followed this by looking at **Hassler's** *Kein Grosser Freud* - and 8 part, 2 choir pieces. Because we were scattered it didn't sound too brilliant, so we agreed to return to it after the tea break, instead working on the lovely **Schmelzer** *Sonata a 6 no. 5*, although we were a little short of basses at this point, due to Wendy going to make the tea. So, after a welcome tea break, lovely sponge cakes provided by Wendy and a bit of Somerset sunshine, we resumed with the Hassler, this time sitting as 2 choirs – and what a difference it made! Even Hassler himself would have been proud of our rendition. Then onto something more modern – *Taffel musica* by a hitherto unknown composer (to the assembled company at any rate), **Rautavara**. This was very lyrical, harmonically pleasing and quite fun to play. We followed this with an attempt at **Paul Clark's** *Horseman* – a rondeau type piece based on an ancient Dutch melody. Tricky, an probably worth revisiting in the future. We finished the afternoon with a final challenge from **Andrew Challenger** *Ballad and Blues* from his Ballads riffs and blues suite. The Ballad was very successfully played, but the Blues were perhaps too much for the end of the afternoon! Thank you again Robin – another enjoyable and challenging afternoon concluded at Somerset SRP.